

Connecticut's Flagship Producing Theatres Testimony on

H.B. 6350, Act Concerning the Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30, 2015 and Other Provisions Relating to Revenue

Good evening Senator Harp, Representative Walker and members of the Appropriations Committee. I am Victoria Nolan from the Yale Repertory Theater and accompanying me is Michael Stotts of the Hartford Stage. We are here to testify on behalf of the Connecticut Flagship Producing Theatres, an organization that includes the following six theaters:

1. Goodspeed Musicals,
2. Hartford Stage,
3. Long Wharf Theatre,
4. The Eugene O'Neill Theatre Center,
5. Westport County Playhouse; and
6. Yale Repertory Theatre.

We would like to start by saying thank you to the Appropriations Committee and your colleagues in the legislature who were steadfast last year in recognizing and supporting the six major professional producing theatres in Connecticut. We are grateful to be included again this year in the Governor's budget, and have come here today to tell you our story.

First of all, we respectfully request that the name on H.B. 6350, currently known as Local Theatre Grant, be changed to **Flagship Producing Theatre Grant**, recognizing the unique characteristics of our six theatres.

Unlike many of the large presenting theatres with which you may be familiar, the Flagship Producing Theatres create theater from scratch, right here in Connecticut, annually infusing the state with \$40.5 million in economic activity. Collectively -

- We create more than 1,138 jobs for artists and administrators right here in CT
- We spend more than \$23 million in taxable payrolls
- We purchase local materials in excess of \$7.6 million
- We spend more than \$2.5 million on local printing and advertising and \$1.2 on hotels nights and temporary artist housing
- We attract over 375,000 regular patrons
- We provide service for more than 44,000 students throughout the State

In a recent economic impact study conducted by the Americans for the Arts, the direct economic impact of all the arts in Connecticut in 2010 was \$455million. Approximately 10% of that total

spending comes from the six producing theatres, which serve residents from all over the state and attract thousands of patrons from outside of the state.

Beyond our economic impact on the state, we have an extraordinary reputational impact – our productions have collectively won nearly 100 national awards, including:

- 5 Tony Awards for Outstanding Regional Theatres (Connecticut is tied with Illinois and second only to California for receiving the most Tony Awards in history)
- Pulitzer Prizes, Obie Awards, Drama Desk Awards and many others
- Grant Awards from the largest and most prestigious foundations nationwide: Shubert, Mellon, Ford, Doris Duke, Wallace, and the National Endowment for the Arts

We represent the best of the State of Connecticut, exporting our productions and our plays throughout the United States and the world, with a long history of transferring our work directly to Broadway, Off Broadway and even the West End in London. If you were in New York City this month, you would have a choice of attending several shows that started in Connecticut:

- Long Wharf Theatre's production of *My Name is Asher Lev* at the Westside Theatre;
- Yale Rep's production of *Belleville* at New York Theatre Workshop;
- the Broadway Musical *Annie*, which was originally produced by Goodspeed; and
- the Pulitzer Prize winning play *Water by the Spoonful*, which closed at Second Stage Theatre last week.

Five of our theatres will celebrate their 50th anniversaries over the next year; we are a permanent and stable network of theatres. Your continued investment in our future has a direct and lasting impact on the local economy, the education of our children and the quality of life for the citizens of our state. The return on the state's \$475,000 investment last year was 404%, providing economic benefit directly to the local merchants and permanent staff who make their homes right here in Connecticut.

We thank you for your time and urge you to continue your strong support Connecticut's Flagship Producing Theatres. We would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Connecticut Flagship Producing Theatres Shine the Spotlight on Connecticut

The CONNECTICUT FLAGSHIP PRODUCING THEATRES (CFPTS)
have won nearly 100 national awards
for artistic work and merit.



Hartford Stage's *Water by the Spoonful* won
the Pulitzer Prize for Drama.
PHOTO: T. Charles Erickson.



Composer, creator and star of *In the Heights*, Lin Manuel Miranda walking to
rehearsal at the O'Neill.



Children at Westport Country Playhouse.
PHOTO: T. Charles Erickson.



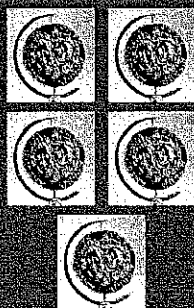
The Realistic Joneses at
Yale Repertory Theatre.
PHOTO: T. Charles Erickson.

Connecticut has received a total of

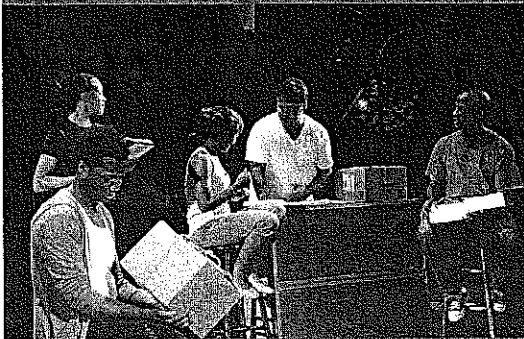
5 Tony® Awards

for regional theatre,

tied with Illinois, second only to California.



Plays and musicals that have originated
from CFPTs have been produced in
**every state and
all over the world.**



The Eugene O'Neill Theater Center's *Good Goods*.

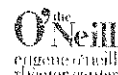


Goodspeed's *SINGIN' IN THE RAIN*.
PHOTO: Elaine Sobolewski.



The Bluest Eye at Hartford Stage.
PHOTO: T. Charles Erickson.

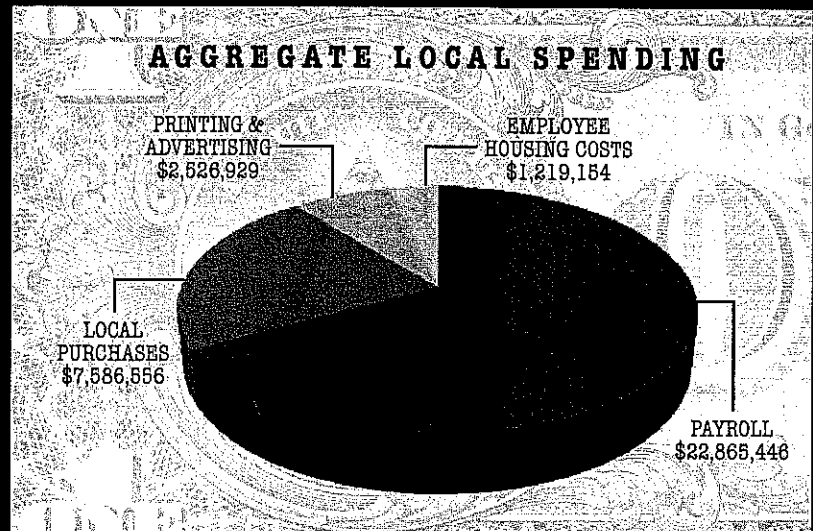
THE CONNECTICUT FLAGSHIP PRODUCING THEATRES



Connecticut Flagship Producing Theatres Stimulate Connecticut's Economy

CFPTs created 1,138 jobs (for visiting artists) in 2011. In addition to permanent positions, this totaled 1,500 producing theatre jobs statewide and \$23,000,000 in payroll.

Much of CFPT's annual spending stays in Connecticut, including \$7.6 million in local purchasing, \$2.5 million in printing and advertising and \$1.2 million in employee housing costs.



We infused the state of Connecticut with **\$40.5 million in economic activity** through annual organizational expenses.

In 2011, the CFPTs produced 1,199 performances. 1,199 instances in which patrons infused local economies through payments for parking, eating at restaurants, shopping locally, and perhaps paying for a babysitter.

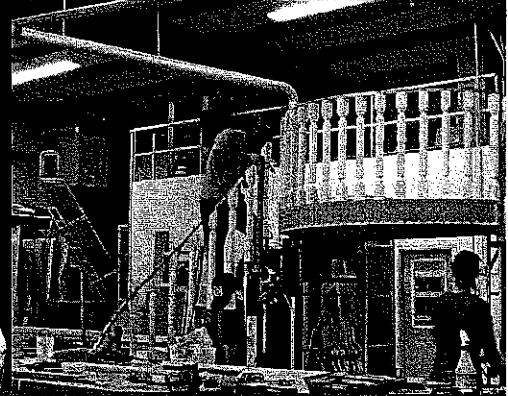
All financial data collected from the most recently completed fiscal year



Yale Repertory Theatre's *Eclipsed*.
PHOTO: T. Charles Erickson.



Long Wharf Theatre's *February House*.
PHOTO: T. Charles Erickson.



Set construction at Goodspeed Musicals.

THE CONNECTICUT FLAGSHIP PRODUCING THEATRES



LONG WHARF THEATRE
WESTPORT COUNTRY PLAYHOUSE

O'Neill
craig-o'Neill
theater center



Connecticut Flagship Producing Theatres Make Connecticut A Great Place To Live

A collective history of **376 seasons**, the oldest of the group serving Connecticut for **81 years**.

	YEAR FOUNDED		YEAR FOUNDED
Westport Playhouse	1931	Eugene O'Neill Theater Center	1964
Goodspeed Musicals	1963	Long Wharf Theatre	1965
Hartford Stage	1963	Yale Repertory Theatre	1966



Durango at Long Wharf Theatre.
PHOTO: T. Charles Erickson.



Long Wharf Theatre's production of **The Glass Menagerie**.
PHOTO: T. Charles Erickson.



Autumn Sonata at Yale Repertory Theatre.
PHOTO: T. Charles Erickson.

Annual attendance at
all 6 CFPTs is just shy of
370,000.

Connecticut's flagship producing theatres
reached over **40,000 students**
across the state in 2011.



Students participating in **Breakdancing Shakespeare: The Tempest** at Hartford Stage.



Students arrive for a matinee performance of
The Diary of Anne Frank at Westport Country Playhouse.
PHOTO: Kathleen O'Rourke.



The Diary of Anne Frank at Westport Country Playhouse.
PHOTO: T. Charles Erickson.

THE CONNECTICUT FLAGSHIP PRODUCING THEATRES



